

MWCC “Pack a Picnic” Day, 9 April 2016. Maribyrnong River

Three boats took part in the first ever official day trip to be included in the MWCC calendar. The Pack a Picnic cruise was designed for any member who would like to get out in their Whittlely just for a day, rather than an overnight. The day proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable family event; with the Wighton family on 'Sea Ya', Erwin Abbinga and his brother Peter on 'Black Betty', and Peter and Caroline Holyoake on 'Black Sheep'.



Participants met under the Westgate Bridge and ambled along the Maribyrnong at the regulation 5 kts for the 75 minute trip to the end of the navigable part of the river at the Canning Street Bridge. This is an ideal family location with a park for the kids, in this case Cody, Zak and Talia, a coffee shop for Erwin and Peter and a picnic table for all of us for lunch.



The Maribyrnong is a fascinating river. You notice several different types of scenery cruising through the Melbourne suburbs with parkland, gorges and around the mouth of the river, docklands and everywhere you look, interesting river birds.

There are several places to berth up on short stay landings of up to 4 hours or, higher up the river, to nose in to the river bank. The only slight problem on this trip was Black Sheep finding something metal and rusty close to the surface of the river and wrecking one of its duo-props! As she was leading at the time, at least the other boats were able to avoid this damaging encounter!



Look out for two other day trips planned for the 2016 calendar when we cruise and lunch at a great little restaurant and then, later in the year, go fishing!

Report by Peter Holyoake.